

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 17 (canceled)

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of determining resource placement, comprising:

2 determining a set of business objectives ~~suited~~ for assessing each of a plurality of
3 candidate locations for resource placement;

4 developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;

5 performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives, thereby
6 determining what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;

7 developing cost factors for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate
8 locations;

9 using computer-readable program code executed by a computer to programmatically
10 compute a value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations using the business
11 objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost
12 factors, further comprising:

13 determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;

14 determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific
15 score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets
16 the second plurality of business objectives;

17 using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance
18 values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and

19 for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the

20 developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location;
21 using computer-readable program code executed by the computer to programmatically
22 select a particular location from among the candidate locations, based on the
23 programmatically-computed ~~values~~ value for placing the resources in each of the candidate
24 locations; and
25 assigning the determined resources to the programmatically-selected particular
26 location.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 18, wherein programmatically
2 computing the value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations further
3 comprises estimating and accounting for any lag time characteristics discovered while
4 performing the value chain analyses.

1 Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned
2 resources are information technology personnel.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned
2 resources comprise monetary investments in the particular location.

Claims 22 - 27 (canceled)

1 Claim 28 (currently amended): A system for assigning resources, comprising:

2 a computer comprising a processor;

3 a set of business objectives ~~usable~~ for assessing each of a plurality of candidate

4 locations for resource placement;

5 one or more objective measurements for each business objective;

6 results of value chain analyses performed related to the set of business objectives, the

7 results usable for determining what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;

8 cost factors for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;

9 instructions which are executable on the computer, using the processor, to implement

10 functions comprising:

11 programmatically computing a value for placing the resources in each of the

12 candidate locations using the business objectives, according to the developed objective

13 measurements, and the developed cost factors, further comprising:

14 determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business

15 objectives;

16 determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-

17 specific score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location

18 meets the second plurality of business objectives;

19 using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the

20 importance values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and

21 for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and

22 the developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location;

23 and

24 using the programmatically-computed value to programmatically select a
25 particular location from among the candidate locations, based on the programmatically-
26 computed ~~values~~ value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations, thereby
27 enabling assignment of the determined resources for placement in the programmatically-
28 selected particular location.

Claims 29 - 32 (canceled)

1 Claim 33 (currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~[[32]]~~ 18, wherein
2 programmatically selecting a particular location ~~based on the programmatically-computed~~
3 ~~values~~ further comprises selecting the candidate location for which ~~[[the]]~~ a cost of placing the
4 ~~resource~~ resources in the candidate location is lowest.

Claim 34 (canceled)

1 Claim 35 (currently amended): The system according to Claim ~~[[34]]~~ 28, wherein
2 programmatically selecting a particular location ~~based on the programmatically-computed~~
3 ~~values~~ further comprises selecting the candidate location for which ~~[[the]]~~ a cost of placing the
4 ~~resource~~ resources in the candidate location is lowest.

1 Claim 36 (currently amended): A computer program product for determining resource
2 placement, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-usable storage

media and comprising computer-usable program code for:

programmatically computing a value for placing resources in each of a plurality of candidate locations using a set of business objectives ~~suitable~~ for assessing each of the plurality of candidate locations for resource placement, according to one or more objective measurements developed for each business objective, and cost factors developed for costs of placing the resources in the candidate locations, the resources determined by performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives to identify what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain, further comprising:

determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;

determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets the second plurality of business objectives;

using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and

for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location;

and

programmatically selecting a particular location from among the candidate locations, based on the programmatically-computed ~~values~~ value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations, for assigning the determined resources.

Claim 37 (canceled)

1 Claim 38 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim ~~[[37]]~~ 36,
2 wherein programmatically selecting a particular location ~~based on the programmatically-~~
3 ~~computed values~~ further comprises selecting the candidate location for which ~~[[the]]~~ a cost of
4 placing the ~~resource~~ resources in the candidate location is lowest.